

***SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 14, 2002***

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners and Tippecanoe County Council met in a special joint meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at Noon in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President John L. Knochel, Vice President KD Benson, and Member Ruth E. Shedd. Council members present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President Connie Basham, Margaret K. Bell, Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey Kessler, Jeffrey A. Kemper, and Kathy Vernon; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, County Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions Group and Tippecanoe County's Financial Consultant, was also present.

President Byers called the County Council's meeting to order.

President Knochel called the County Commissioners' meeting to order.

Recommendations for Inclusion in County's Business Plan: Greater Lafayette Progress, Inc.

Councilmember Byers and Commissioner Benson met with Greater Lafayette Progress President Mike Brooks to get his thoughts regarding economic development as part of the County's Business Plan. He proposed four items to include in the Plan:

1. Continue to use tax abatement as a tool to encourage the attraction of new investment and investment by existing businesses in the community.
2. Use tax increment as a tool to finance the development of infrastructure necessary to attract to business.
3. Establish a recommended 7.5% of EDIT for use to attract new businesses the community.
4. Establish a recommended 2.5% of EDIT to provide support to Greater Lafayette Progress, Inc to perform economic development activities for the community. Funds to be available for market, staff and administrative expenses.

Following Mr. Guerrettaz's suggestion, Councilmember Fruitt and Commissioner Benson will meet with Greater Lafayette Progress and Community Development Corporation to determine their goals.

Matching Grant Monies

Councilmember Fruitt wondered if a fund could be set up to provide matching funds required for many grants the County applies for. Commissioner Knochel responded that the Council has the authority to develop such a line item. Mr. Guerrettaz suggested creating an impact sheet for each grant to be sure it won't cost more than it is worth to get. He said a line item for matching funds could be in the General Fund because it would be for the general good of the community. Councilmember Kessler suggested setting this line item up right away.

It was decided that the Commissioners will recommend to the Council how this will be set up.

Tax Increases (What does Mr. G. think)

1. EDIT percentage increase: Mr. Guerrettaz said it can be increased ¼% but requires State approval.
2. Wheel Tax: Mr. Guerrettaz said Hendricks County approved a Wheel Tax after getting letters of support from all their entities.
3. Other Tax: From his experience, Mr. Guerrettaz said the State will ask if you have done all you can for yourself (i.e. Wheel Tax).

Tippecanoe County Business Plan (aka Tippecanoe County Comprehensive Financial Plan) Review

Mr. Guerrettaz reviewed the sections of the Plan.

Summary: What We've Done

- * Developed a proactive view for the future.
- * Asked for needs from members in the County.
- * Provided annual funding (\$500,000) for a juvenile center two to three years before needed.
- * Worked to build partnerships with the community – taxpayers and employers.
- * Developed a Plan that won't bankrupt the community.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commissioners adjourned.

RECESSED

The Council recessed until 2:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

John L. Knochel, President

ATTEST:

KD Benson, Vice President

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

Ruth E. Shedd, Member